

What is claimed is:

1. A television set-top terminal, comprising:  
a computer readable medium having computer  
program code; and

means for executing said computer program code  
to implement an Application Programming Interface  
(API) wherein:

application data which defines applications is  
recovered at the terminal according to locators  
associated with the applications;

the applications are registered and installed  
at the terminal;

the API enables running and subsequent stopping  
of the applications; and

the API enables pausing of the applications  
once they are running, and subsequent resuming of  
the applications.

2. The terminal of claim 1, wherein:  
a user is notified of the presence of the  
applications after registration and installation  
thereof.

3. The terminal of claim 1, wherein:  
said API enables the retrieval of the  
applications as downloadable software applications.

4. The terminal of claim 1, wherein:  
said API enables the retrieval of the  
applications as broadcast software applications.

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5. The terminal of claim 1, wherein:  
said API is independent of an operating system  
and hardware of the terminal.

6. A television set-top terminal, comprising:  
a computer readable medium having computer  
program code; and

means for executing said computer program code  
to implement an Application Programming Interface  
(API) wherein:

application data which defines applications is  
recovered at the terminal according to locators  
associated with the applications;

the applications are registered and installed  
at the terminal; and

the API enables particular ones of the  
applications to advertise their respective states to  
other applications.

7. The terminal of claim 6, wherein:  
a user is notified of the presence of the  
applications after registration and installation  
thereof.

8. The terminal of claim 6, wherein:  
said API provides an ITU-T X.731-based  
mechanism for monitoring and controlling the  
applications.

9. The terminal of claim 6, wherein:  
said API enables at least one of the other  
applications to access the advertised state of at  
least one of the particular advertising  
applications.

10. The terminal of claim 6, wherein:  
said API enables retrieval of version  
information associated with the applications.

11. A television set-top terminal, comprising:  
a computer readable medium having computer  
program code; and  
means for executing said computer program code  
to implement an Application Programming Interface  
(API) wherein:  
application data which defines applications is  
recovered at the terminal according to locators  
associated with the applications;  
the applications are registered and installed  
at the terminal; and  
said locator is in the form of a Uniform  
Resource Locator (URL).

12. The terminal of claim 6, wherein:  
said API enables verification of the integrity  
of the applications.

13. A television set-top terminal, comprising:  
a computer readable medium having computer  
program code; and

means for executing said computer program code to implement an Application Programming Interface (API) wherein:

application data which defines applications is recovered at the terminal according to locators associated with the applications;

the applications are registered and installed at the terminal; and

the API enables validation of the suitability of the applications for the terminal.

14. The terminal of claim 6, wherein:  
said API enables administrative locking and unlocking of the applications.

15. The terminal of claim 6, wherein:  
said API enables particular ones of the applications to advertise respective alarm statuses thereof to other ones of the applications.

16. The terminal of claim 6, wherein:  
said API enables particular ones of the applications to advertise respective availability statuses thereof to other ones of the applications.

17. The terminal of claim 6, wherein:  
said API enables particular ones of the applications to advertise respective procedural statuses thereof to other ones of the applications.

18. The terminal of claim 6, wherein:  
said API enables particular ones of the  
applications to advertise respective operational  
states thereof to other ones of the applications.

19. The terminal of claim 6, wherein:  
said API enables particular ones of the  
applications to advertise respective administrative  
states thereof to other ones of the applications.

20. The terminal of claim 6, wherein:  
said API enables particular ones of the  
applications to advertise respective usage states  
thereof to other ones of the applications.

21. A method for implementing a software architecture for a television set-top terminal, comprising the steps of:

providing a computer readable medium having computer program code; and

executing said computer program code to  
implement an Application Programming Interface (API)  
to:

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        recover application data which defines
applications at the terminal according to a locator
associated with the application data;

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register and install the applications at the
terminal;
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enable running and subsequent stopping of the applications; and

1. Abstract